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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 /063 W

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R 022144Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5916
INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

(X) Release () Excise () Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify: () In Part (X) In Full

() Classify as () Extend as () Downgrade to

Date Declassify on Reason

[REDACTED] SANTIAGO 6320

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM PINT AR CI
SUBJECT: TODMAN VISIT:DISAPPEARANCE IN ARGENTINA OF CHILEAN
CITIZENS

REF: A) STATE 154278, B) BUENOS AIRES 5478

1. SUMMARY: SENIOR CHILEAN RABBI TOLD EMBOFS AUGUST 1
THAT AS OF THREE WEEKS AGO JACOBO STOULMAN NOT ("STUHL-
MAN") BORTNIK AND HIS WIFE MATILDA TESSA MOISE WERE
BEING HELD BY AN ARGENTINE ARMY UNIT INVESTIGATING THE
GRAIVER CASE. HE SAYS THAT THE GOC, INCLUDING PRESIDENT
PINOCHET, IS ASSISTING THE FAMILY IN SEEKING THEIR
RETURN. THE RABBI URGES ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN
TO APPEAL TO ARGENTINA TO RELEASE THEM ON HIS FORTH-
COMING VISIT TO B.A. END SUMMARY.

2. FOLLOWING UP ON REF A IN LIGHT OF REF B
EMBOFFS MET WITH RABBI KREIMAN AUGUST 1 AT HIS REQUEST.
ACCORDING TO KREIMAN, STOULMAN AND HIS WIFE ARRIVED
AT BUENOS AIRES AIRPORT MAY 29 FOR A THREE DAY
VACATION. PASSENGERS SAW THE STOULMANS DETAINED
BY THE ARGENTINE ARMY AS THEY DESCENDED FROM THE
PLANE AND BEFORE THEY PASSED IMMIGRATION AND

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CUSTOMS. FACED WITH THIS TESTIMONY, THE ARGENTINE AMBASSADOR IN SANTIAGO -- WHO HAD AT FIRST REPORTED THE STOULMANS HAD NEVER REACHED B.A.--SAID THAT THE ARGENTINE ARMY HAD QUESTIONED THEM FOR TWO HOURS IN CONNECTION WITH THE GRAIVER CASE AND THEN RELEASED THE COUPLE. (STOULMAN OWNS A CURRENCY EXCHANGE HOUSE, "CAMBIO ANDES", IN SANTIAGO AND PREVIOUSLY HAD REPRESENTED A SWISS BANK CONTROLLED BY JOSE KLEIN, A CHILEAN. KLEIN HAD BEEN INVOLVED IN DEALINGS WITH, OR ON BEHALF OF, GRAIVER.)

3. KREIMAN CONTINUED THAT THE GOC'S RELIGIOUS LIAISON, GENERAL (RET) JORGE COURTS, HAD INVOLVED PRESIDENT PINOCHET IN THE CASE SINCE THE STOULMANS ARE STRONG JUNTA SUPPORTERS WHO HAD FLED CHILE DURING THE ALLENDE PERIOD. PINOCHET ALLEGEDLY CALLED BUENOS AIRES. MEANWHILE THE COC COUNSELLED KEEPING THE CASE OUT OF THE PRESS. THREE LAWYERS REPRESENTING THE STOULMANS TRAVELED TO BUENOS AIRES TO PURSUE THE INVESTIGATION. IN SPITE OF INTIMIDATION BY SECURITY FORCES THEY ARE ALLEGED TO HAVE DETERMINED WHICH ARMY UNIT HELD THE STOULMANS (TOGETHER WITH ARGENTINES INVOLVED IN THE GRAIVER CASE). THE STOULMAN FAMILY LEARNED THAT JACOBO HAD BEEN WRITING CHECKS TO FICTITIOUS ARGENTINES AGAINST HIS US BANK ACCOUNT AND HAD PASSED SOME INSTRUCTIONS TO HIS SWISS BANK ACCOUNT MANAGERS AS RECENTLY AS THREE WEEKS AGO.

4. KREIMAN STRESSED THAT, AT LEAST FROM THE GOC PERSPECTIVE, THE STOULMAN SITUATION WAS COMPLETELY APOLITICAL. HE NOTED THAT, UNLIKE THE SITUATION

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IN CHILE, THERE IS AN ANTISEMITIC TINGE IN TODAY'S ARGENTINA.

5. THE STOULMAN FAMILY AND KREIMAN THOUGHT IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO SET THEIR PROBLEM BEFORE ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN IN HOPES THAT HE WOULD RAISE IT WITH THE ARGENTINES DURING HIS FORTHCOMING TRIP. KREIMAN SAID THAT THE GOC ENDORSED THE IDEA

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("ONLY THE AMERICANS CAN HELP YOU RIGHT NOW") AS DID MR ROSENTHAL OF THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE WHEN CONTACTED IN THE US. KREIMAN SAID ROSENTHAL WOULD BE CALLING MR TODMAN'S OFFICE.

6. THE EMBOFFS NOTED THE TOW ASPECTS OF THE SUGGESTIONS: 1) MEETING WITH THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY HERE AND, 2) RAISING THE SUBJECT WITH THE ARGENTINES. WE POINTED OUT THAT OTHER CHILEANS MIGHT WELL ASK FOR A CHANCE TO DISCUSS THEIR SPECIFIC CASES WITH MR TODMAN, (COMMENT: ONE ALREADY HAS), AND WE DOUBTED, GIVEN HIS BRIEF TIME HERE, THAT FACE-TO-FACE MEETINGS WOULD BE POSSIBLE. BUT THIS WOULD NOT NECESSARILY PRECLUDE ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN FROM RAISING THE MATTER WITH THE ARGENTINES, AND WE SAID WE WOULD BRING THE RABBI'S SUGGESTION TO HIS ATTENTION.

7. COMMENT: THE QUIET WAY IN WHICH THE STOULMAN MATTER IS BEING HANDLED HERE AND THE CAREFUL ATTEMPT TO DISTINGUISH IT FROM ANY POLITICAL TAIN ON THE CHILEAN SIDE WOULD ACCOUNT FOR NEGATIVE RESPONSES FROM ARGENTINE HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS (B.A. REFTTEL). WE ASSURED KREIMAN THAT THE INFORMATION HE PROVIDED WOULD BE CLOSELY HELD WITHIN THE USG. KREIMAN GAVE US RELIABLE INFORMATION IN THE COURSE OF SUCCESSFULLY MANAGING THE RELEASE OF TWO GOC-DETAINED CHILEANS LAST YEAR.

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8. EMBASSY B.A.'S COMMENTS WELCOMED. BOYATT

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